

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following claim listing replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A server for use in a system that is designed to transmit, receive and share multimedia information between a plurality of terminal devices that are connected together over a network, the plurality of terminal devices including a first terminal device and a second terminal device, the server comprising:

a network control device;

a memory storing a management table for managing identifiers to identify the terminal devices and [[the]] network addresses of the terminal devices on the network;

a server receiving section, which receives unit configured to receive a request including an [[the]] identifier from [[a]] the first one of the terminal devices device through the network control device;

a processing section for getting unit configured to acquire a network [[the]] address of the first terminal device upon receiving the request, and to acquire on the transmitting end based on reception of the identifier and also getting the a network address of the [[a]] second one of the terminal devices device , identified by the identifier received, by reference referring to the identifier included in the request and the management table; and

a server transmitting section for sending unit configured to send the network address of the second terminal device to the first terminal device through the network control device when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information, and for sending or to send the network address of the first terminal device to the second terminal device when the second terminal device retains the multimedia information,

wherein the multimedia information is transmitted, received and shared between the first and second terminal devices by ~~referenee~~ referring to the network addresses address provided.

2. (Currently Amended) The server of claim 1, wherein ~~in the case where~~ when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information,

the server receiving ~~seetion~~ receives unit is configured to receive the identifier of the second terminal device and a share request to share the multimedia information from the first terminal device, and the server transmitting ~~seetion~~ sends unit is configure to send the share request to the second terminal device, and

when the server receiving ~~seetion~~ unit receives an acknowledgement, indicating that the multimedia information is receivable, from the second terminal device in response to the share request, the server transmitting ~~seetion~~ sends unit is configured to send the network address of the second terminal device and a request to transmit the multimedia information to the first terminal device.

3. (Currently Amended) The server of claim 2,

wherein the first terminal device has a transmitting-end database on which the multimedia information, including at least one title, and title information[[,]] representing [[the]] properties of [[the]] said at least one title, [[are]] is stored, [[and]]

wherein the server receiving ~~seetion~~ receives is configured to receive the title information, ~~stored in the transmitting-end database~~, from the first terminal device, [[and]]

wherein the processing section makes is configured to make a title list, including predetermined titles, based on the title information and the identifier of the second terminal device, and

wherein the server transmitting section transmits is configured to transmit the title list to the first terminal device and receives to receive a request to share the multimedia information, selected by referencee referring to the title list, from the first terminal device.

4. (Currently Amended) The server of claim 3, wherein the processing section makes is configured to make the [[a tilt]] title list including titles that are playable by the second terminal device.

5. (Currently Amended) The server of claim 1, wherein in the case where when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information,

the server further includes a format description table that describes correspondence between the identifiers to identify the terminal devices and [[the]] formats of the multimedia information that are compatible with [[the]] respective terminal devices,

the processing section generates unit is configure to generate filter information about the format compatible with the second terminal device by referencee referring to the format description table, and the server transmitting section transmits unit is configured to transmit the filter information to the first terminal device, and

a request to share the multimedia information that has been filtered by the first terminal device in accordance with the filter information is sent from the first terminal device to the

second terminal device, whereby the multimedia information is transmitted, received and shared between the first and second terminal devices.

6. (Currently Amended) The server of claim 1, wherein ~~in the case where when~~ the second terminal device retains the multimedia information,

the server receiving ~~section-receives~~ unit is configured to receive the identifier of the second terminal device and a share request to share the multimedia information from the first terminal device, and the server transmitting ~~section-sends~~ unit is configured to send the share request and the network address of the first terminal device to the second terminal device, and

when the server receiving ~~section~~ unit receives an acknowledgement, indicating that the multimedia information is transmittable, from the second terminal device in response to the share request, the server transmitting ~~section-sends~~ unit is configured to send a request to receive the multimedia information to the first terminal device.

7. (Currently Amended) The server of claim 6,

wherein the second terminal device has a transmitting-end database on which the multimedia information, including at least one title, and title information, representing [[the]] properties of [[the]] said at least one title, [[are]] is stored, [[and]]

wherein the server receiving ~~section-receives~~ unit is configured to receive the title information, ~~stored in the transmitting-end database,~~ from the second terminal device, [[and]]

wherein the processing ~~section-makes~~ unit is configured to make a title list, including predetermined titles, based on the title information and the identifier of the first terminal device, and

wherein the server transmitting ~~section-transmits unit is configured to transmit~~ the title list to the first terminal device and ~~receives to receive~~ a request to share the multimedia information, selected by reference ~~referring~~ to the title list, from the first terminal device.

8. (Currently Amended) The server of claim 7, wherein the processing ~~section-makes unit is configured to make the [[a tilt]] title~~ list including titles that are playable by the first terminal device.

9. (Currently Amended) The server of claim 1, wherein the network address includes an IP address and a port number.

10. (Currently Amended) The server of claim 3, further comprising a search section for searching unit configured to search the title information that is stored in the transmitting-end database,

wherein the server receiving ~~section-receives unit is configured to receive~~ the title information based on a result of the search done by the search section.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a server for use in a system that is designed to transmit, receive and share multimedia information between a plurality of terminal devices that are connected together over a network, the server including a network control device and a management table for managing identifiers to identify the terminal devices and [[the]] network addresses of the terminal devices on the network, the plurality of terminal devices

including a first terminal device and a second terminal device, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving [[the]] a request including an identifier from [[a]] the first one of the terminal devices device through the network control device;

getting acquiring a network [[the]] address of the first terminal device upon receiving the request, and to acquire on the transmitting end based on reception of the identifier and also getting the a network address of [[a]] the second one of the terminal devices device, identified by the identifier received, by reference referring to the identifier included in the request and the management table; and

sending the network address of the second terminal device to the first terminal device through the network control device when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information and or sending the network address of the first terminal device to the second terminal device when the second terminal device retains the multimedia information,

whereby the multimedia information is transmitted, received and shared between the first and second terminal devices by reference referring to the address network addresses provided.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein in the case where when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information,

the step of receiving includes receiving the identifier of the second terminal device and a share request to share the multimedia information from the first terminal device,

the step of sending includes sending the share request to the second terminal device, and when an acknowledgement[[,]] indicating that the multimedia information is receivable, is received from the second terminal device in response to the share request, the step of sending

includes sending the network address of the second terminal device and a request to transmit the multimedia information to the first terminal device.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12,

wherein the first terminal device has a transmitting-end database on which the multimedia information, including at least one title, and title information, representing [[the]] properties of [[the]] said at least one title, [[are]] is stored, [[and]]

wherein the step of receiving includes receiving the title information, stored in the transmitting-end database, from the first terminal device, [[and]]

wherein the step of processing includes making a title list, including predetermined titles, based on the title information and the identifier of the second terminal device, and

wherein when, in the step of sending, the title list is sent to the first terminal device after [[that]] the step of making a title list, the step of receiving includes receiving a request to share the multimedia information, selected by reference referring to the title list, from the first terminal device.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of processing includes making [[a tilt]] the title list including titles that are playable by the second terminal device.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein in the case where when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information,

the server further includes a format description table that describes correspondence between the identifiers to identify the terminal devices and [[the]] formats of the multimedia information that are compatible with the respective terminal devices,

the step of processing includes generating filter information about the format compatible with the second terminal device by ~~reference~~ referring to the format description table, and

the step of sending includes transmitting the filter information to the first terminal device, whereby a request to share the multimedia information that has been filtered by the first terminal device in accordance with the filter information is sent from the first terminal device to the second terminal device, and the multimedia information is transmitted, received and shared between the first and second terminal devices.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein ~~in the case where~~ when the second terminal device retains the multimedia information,

the step of receiving includes receiving the identifier of the second terminal device and a share request to share the multimedia information from the first terminal device,

the step of sending includes sending the share request and the network address of the first terminal device to the second terminal device, and

when an acknowledgement[[,]] indicating that the multimedia information is transmittable, is received from the second terminal device in response to the share request, the step of sending includes sending a request to receive the multimedia information to the first terminal device.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16,

wherein the second terminal device has a transmitting-end database on which the multimedia information, including at least one title, and title information, representing [[the]] properties of [[the]] said at least one title, [[are]] is stored, [[and]]

wherein the step of receiving includes receiving the title information, stored in the transmitting-end database, from the second terminal device, [[and]]

wherein the step of processing includes making a title list, including predetermined titles, based on the title information and the identifier of the first terminal device, and

wherein, when in the step of sending, the title list is sent to the first terminal device after [[that]] the step of making a title list, the step of receiving includes receiving a request to share the multimedia information, selected by reference to the title list, from the first terminal device.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of processing includes making [[a tilt]] the title list including titles that are playable by the first terminal device.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the network address includes an IP address and a port number.

20. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of searching the title information that is stored in the transmitting-end database,

wherein the step of receiving includes receiving the title information based on a result of the step of searching.